



As the world is becoming more and more digital, we want to ensure that all children become digitally literate. This means knowing how to stay safe when online. For parents and carers, this can also be a daunting new world. This year we will be sending regular Digital Safety Newsletters to support families at home. If there is anything specific you need support or guidance with, please do let us know and we can add it to our new newsletters.

Many thanks

Mrs Grant

PEGI rate Roblox with a 'Parental Guidance' label (icon shown right), this is because of the huge level of user generated content within Roblox.



It is rated for 'Teens' on Google Play and 12+ on the App store. You can either use Roblox to create games or play games that other users have created. **As a lot of the content is user generated, it may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** It is important to set up Parental controls appropriate to your child.

New Roblox Checklist The 2023 Roblox Checklist created by SWGfL and the UK Safer Internet Centre in partnership with Roblox is now available to download here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/new-roblox-checklist-available/>

Are you considering getting your child's first phone in Year 6. If so, here is a guide from Child's Net to help you with your decisions and getting them started. Click [here](#).

Alongside this month's newsletter is a Parental Guide to Minecraft. Make sure you check it out!

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Does your child have access to a games console? If so, have you checked the settings and set up parental controls?

Here are some links to guide you on how to do this:

PlayStation

Set up your account as a family manager and create a separate child account so you can tailor their activities.

Click [here](#) for more information.

XBOX

You can download an app to manage your child's gaming experience. Find out more [here](#).

Nintendo Switch

Nintendo also offer guidance for setting up parental controls. Click [here](#) for more information.

Source: 2Simple Parental Guide

DEMONSTRATE YOUR OWN 'NETIQUETTE'

Model appropriate behaviour for your child, especially if they have access to your devices or you are using them together. Avoid commenting on, posting or following social media posts that you wouldn't want your child to see. Always post and communicate respectfully.

GAMING ADVICE TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN

Source: Internetmatters.org

What to think about:



Research what games are available

Online gaming is increasingly popular with younger children so it's important to do a bit of research around the types of **age-appropriate games** that are available for your child.



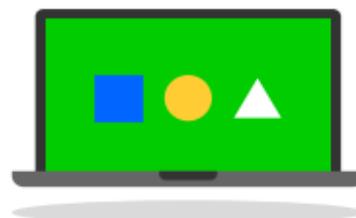
Know your PEGI ratings

Learn more about what ratings mean to make the right choices on suitable games for your child to play and avoid games that involve playing with others online.



Review the cost of in-game purchases

With more and more 'free-to-play' games available featuring in-game purchases, **it's important to see what additional cost may be involved** to avoid getting caught out with a big bill. Setting controls to restrict in-app purchases can help as a tech solution.



Mix and match types of games

Keep them engaged and learning by giving younger children a varied diet of educational games that teach them basic maths to more fun games that feature their favourite TV characters. This can help them to develop their problem-solving skills and creativity.

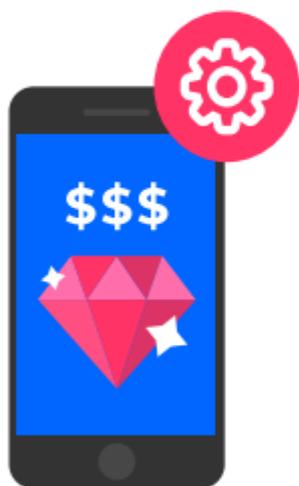
What to talk about

Set rules surrounding video gaming and screen use

Use a **family agreement** to agree together on some clear boundaries on what games they can play, when and for how long to help them have a safer experience while gaming. Review these as they grow to make sure they are still working for them.

Give them coping strategies

If things go wrong while they are gaming (i.e. they see something upsetting) **make sure they know what to do**, whether it is to turn off the screen or go speak to you or a trusted adult to resolve the situation.



Things to do

See what people say about the game

Read **online reviews by parents** to get a better understanding of the games.

Get help choosing the right game

Use **sites like PEGI** that offer age-specific game reviews to focus your search.

Make use of controls to keep them safe

Familiarise yourself with the parental controls on your child's console, mobile device or gaming app to **ensure they can only access content that is age-appropriate**.

Use tech tools to set time limits

Increasingly children are spending more time gaming so using tech tools on devices they use to **manage the time they spend** and what they play can help them build good online habits.



Use our **set up safe gaming parental controls how to guide** to learn how to make use of the tools

Play online games together

Typically, younger children will need a lot of guidance when it comes to choosing and playing games. **Playing together can help build their confidence and keep you engaged in their digital world.**